



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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Motor Vehicle Division issues 3,500 Ignition Interlock Licenses

For immediate release

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SANTA FE- The Director of the state Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) announced today that MVD issued has issued over 3,500 ignition interlock licenses. The interlock license requires that an approved ignition interlock device be installed in any vehicle that the license holder drives.

"This is a testament to the success of the program," said MVD Director Larry Kehoe, "Every day we are making it more difficult for people to drive intoxicated on our roads."

The bill, signed into law by Governor Bill Richardson on April 6, 2003, allows individuals whose licenses have been revoked or denied - due to one or more DWI offenses - to obtain an interlock driver's license. To obtain an interlock license an individual must install an ignition interlock on the vehicle. The device measures the level of alcohol in the blood and prevents the vehicle from starting if alcohol is detected.

"The interlock device is a very effective weapon in our battle against drunk driving," said Governor Bill Richardson. "I am committed to increasing the use of cutting-edge technology to reduce DWI and eliminate the hundreds of tragic, and *preventable* deaths and injuries in alcohol related crashes each year."

Since taking office, Governor Richardson has fought for tough legislation to crack down on repeat drunk drivers. The Governor's fight for tougher DWI laws has led to longer sentences for repeat DWI offenders who kill or injure, legislation that lowers the legal blood alcohol limit for commercial drivers to .04, and to increased penalties for providing alcohol to minors. The Governor also appointed New Mexico's first DWI "Czar" – Rachel O'Connor.

For information on how to obtain an ignition interlock license go to <http://ipl.unm.edu/traf/pubs/InterlockLic.htm>, or call 1-888-683-4636.

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